Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-6, 8-9 and 17-18. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A population of primary cultured **pre**adipocytes, wherein the **pre**adipocytes are isolated and established from adipose tissue and stably maintain a foreign DNA encoding a protein that is secreted outside of a cell, and wherein the DNA is operably linked to a promoter sequence~~, and wherein the population is substantially free of non-adipocyte cells~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The **preadipocyte** population ~~adipocyte~~ of claim 1, wherein the DNA is transferred to the cell by a retroviral vector or adeno-associated viral vector.

3. (Currently Amended) The **preadipocyte** population ~~adipocyte~~ of claim 1, which has the ability to significantly express the protein in vivo for at least 20 days.

4. (Currently Amended) The **preadipocyte** population ~~adipocyte~~ of claim 1, which is used to release the protein into the blood flow.

5. (Currently Amended) The **preadipocyte** population ~~adipocyte~~ of claim 1, wherein the protein is insulin or glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1).

6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a population of primary cultured **pre**adipocytes, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(1) isolating adipocytes and establishing a primary culture **of preadipocytes**; and

(2) transferring~~, and then stably maintaining in the genome~~ **into the preadipocytes** a foreign DNA operably linked to a promoter sequence and encoding a protein that is secreted outside of the cell~~, wherein the population is substantially free of non-~~

~~adipocyte cells~~ **and then stably maintaining the foreign DNA in the genome of the preadipocytes**.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the foreign gene is transferred by a retroviral vector or adeno-associated viral vector.

8. (Currently Amended) A population of primary cultured **pre**adipocytes, which is produced by the method of claim 6.

9. (Currently Amended) An implant composition for gene therapy, wherein the composition comprises a population of primary cultured **pre**adipocytes, which are isolated and established from adipose tissue and stably maintain in the genome a foreign DNA encoding a protein that is secreted outside of the cell, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the DNA is operably linked to a promoter sequence~~, wherein the population is substantially free of non-adipocyte cells~~.

10. (Original) The implant composition of claim 9, which further comprises an extracellular matrix component.

11. (Original) The implant composition of claim 9, which further comprises an angiogenesis factor.

12-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A population of primary cultured **pre**adipocytes, which is produced by the method of claim 7.

18. (Currently Amended) A population of primary cultured **pre**adipocytes, wherein the **pre**adipocytes are isolated and established from adipose tissue and stably maintain a foreign DNA encoding a protein that is secreted outside of a cell, wherein the DNA is operably linked to a promoter sequence, and wherein the population is obtained by ceiling culture ~~and substantially free of non-adipocyte cells~~.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the primary culture is established in step (1) by ceiling culture.